

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, September 18, 2007, the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Doug Mod, Vice Chairman
Brad Molnar, Commissioner
Ken Toole, Commissioner

Commissioner Raney was absent and left his proxy with Commissioner Jergeson.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel, Utility Division

(360) In the matter of N2007.8.99-Qwest. On August 24, 2007, Qwest filed Tariff Transmittal 07-04.

Commissioner Mod moved to Approve Qwest's Tariff Transmittal 07-04 in Docket N2007.8.99. Commissioner Toole seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(361) In the matter of N2007.8.100-Citizens Telecommunications. On August 27, Citizens filed Advice Letter No. MT-07-08, Access Tariff filing.

Commissioner Toole moved to Approve Citizens' Advice Letter No. MT-07-08 in Docket N2007.8.100. Commissioner Mod seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Eric Eck, Utility Division

(362) In the matter of D97.11.219-NorthWestern Energy. On September 10, 2007, NorthWestern Energy filed its semi-annual true-up Advice Letter pursuant to Order No. 6035a.

Commissioner Toole moved to Approve NorthWestern Energy's requested rate decreases for the semi-annual true-up of the Natural Gas Transition Bonds. Commissioner Mod seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Wyne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(363) In the matter of TN2361-Brian David Parks dba Mountain Express Taxi, Missoula, Montana requests permission to suspend PSC No. 9460 for a one month period, August 30, 2007 to September 30, 2007 due to staffing difficulties.

Commissioner Mod moved to Approve the suspension as requested. Commissioner Toole seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(364) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of September 10, 2007.

Commissioner Toole moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of September 10, 2007. Commissioner Mod seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Jim Paine, Legal Division

(365) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2007.7.86 & D2007.7.87-Verizon bona fide notice to interconnect with Ronan and Hot Springs.

Commissioner Toole moved to grant the suspension of procedural schedule as requested in Dockets D2007.7.86 and D2007.7.87. Commissioner Mod seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Gary Duncan, Utility Division

(366) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2007.6.68, D2007.6.69, D2007.6.72, D2007.6.73 D2007.7.88-Blackfoot Communications, Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Bresnan Communications, American Fiber Networks, Citizens Telecommunication Company of Montana, and Verizon Wireless Interconnection Agreements.

Commissioner Mod moved to approve the five interconnection agreements presented by staff. Commissioner Toole seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Mike Lee, Utility Division

(367) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of N2007.8.92-PSC Initiated/Montana ETCs.

Commissioner Toole moved to certify to the FCC and USAC all Montana ETCs, rural and non-rural, for continued receipt of federal universal service funds, and to certify rate comparability for all Montana ETCs providing service in non-rural areas, all certification letters to be in accordance with FCC and USAC requirements and PSC certification letters done in previous years. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator Utility Division
Al Brogan, Legal Division

(368) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of NorthWestern Energy's upcoming electricity supply resource procurement plan-discuss hiring a consultant to evaluate the portion of the plan concerning NorthWestern Energy's assessment of a residential time of use pilot program

Commissioner Molnar moved to direct staff to hire an independent consultant pursuant to 69-8-421 (10), MCA. Commissioner Mod seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Eric Dahlgren, Utility Division

(369) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of N2006. 5. 60- Adoption of Energy Policy Act 2005 Standard Regarding Interconnection.

Commissioner Mod moved to instruct staff to schedule a technical workshop on adopting IEEE Standard 1547 for interconnecting electric consumer on-site generation to a utility's local distribution facilities. Commissioner Toole seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Will Rosquist, Utility Division

(370) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2004. 7. 99, D2004. 12. 192, D2005. 6. 106- NorthWestern Energy Electric and natural gas USB program allocations.

Commissioner Molnar moved to direct staff to draft the Third Interim Order extending the electric and natural gas USB allocation decisions in Second Interim Order 6679b to November 1, 2008. Commissioner Mod seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh, Administrator, Legal Division

(371) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of N2007.5.50-DEQ requests additional time to comment on the plan-MDU Electric Least Cost Plan Filing.

Commissioner Toole moved to extend the comment deadline to November 2, 2007. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator Utility Division

(372) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of out-of-state Travel for Eric Dahlgren to attend pipeline safety course in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 16-19, 2007.

Commissioner Mod moved to approve Eric Dahlgren's out-of-state travel to attend a required Pipeline Safety training course (the Gas Integrity Management Protocol Seminar), October 16-19, 2007, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Commissioner Toole seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator

Transportation & Centralized Services Division

Kate Whitney, Administrator Utility Division

Staci Litschauer, Centralized Services

(373) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Exempt staff and utility Engineer pay raises.

Commissioner Molnar moved to approve a 3% raise to exempt staff, and to increase Eric Dahlgren's salary to be equal to 80% of the Rate Analyst market salary for pay period ending October 12, 2007. Commissioner Mod seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GREG JERGSON, Chair man

DOUG MOOD, Vice Chair man

BRAD MOLNAR, Commi ssi oner

ROBERT H RANEY, Commi ssi oner

KEN TOOLE, Commi ssi oner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones
Commi ssi on Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Wednesday, September 19, 2007, the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Doug Mod, Vice Chairman
Brad Molnar, Commissioner
Robert H. Raney, Commissioner
Ken Toole, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Mike Lee, Utility Division

(374) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2006.3.39 – Quest's filing to offer certain services as not regulated:

Commissioner Toole directed staff to draft an order for Commission consideration that is consistent with staff's August, 29, 2007 Memorandum as modified by Commission directive at the September 13th work session.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GREG JERGSON, Chairman

DOUG MOOD, Vice Chairman

BRAD MLNAR, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

KEN TOOLE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Judy Scheier
Assistant Commission Secretary